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Considerations UPON THE PROCLAMATION FOR THE Thanksgiving,

In a Letter to a Friend.

SIR,

Fast and Thanksgiving have been frequentlier used, by Dr. Sherlock's Providential Kings and Governors, than by other Princes, not so much to conciliate a propitiousness from Heaven (for that, by their Title, they are assured of) as to testifie their Je-ho-like Zeal, and to influence the People to promote their Designs. The Summer having been spent in Set-days of Fasting, they were unexpectedly forbid, before the Campaign was well ended, which gave occasion to many to complain that they were wearied of that Duty, which they found so unsuccessful; but those little considered, that a Thanksgiving was to follow, without which there would be but a cloudy and gloomy return of the Prince from the Campaign; nor would the

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Parliament be warmed into a giving Temper : But I shall leave these Causes, to consider the Grounds assigned in the Proclamation.

Here are Four Trophies set up for the Mobb to gaze at : The First represents a Naval Triumph, with this Inscription upon the Tablet, *The Great and Glorious Victory over the French Fleet.* But if, upon any such occasion, that of the Psalmist may be verified, *Not unto us, Lord, not unto us ;* it may more justly be said now, God Almighty ought to have the *Blue Garter.* *Cui militat aether,* had been the properest Motto for the Medals. The common acceptation of the Word *Victory,* is where our Enemy is over-powered by Valour and good Conduct, rather than by casual Events or Accidents. The cross Winds not only hindred the *French* from arriving before the conjuction of ours with the *Dutch* Fleet, but obstructed their Intelligence of it, and the fresh Orders which were sent to *Tourville* in case it had been effected; by which means he fought with the dis-advantage of 46 to 99; and yet behaved himself with that Vigour and Gallantry, that we sustained, in the Fight, much greater loss than they did; but the *French* Admiral considering that he should endanger the whole Fleet, by continuing an obstinate Fight with that inequality, prudently withdrew, lest he should have been inclosed and necessitated to fight with fresh Ships; which he did with that conduct, as it is admired by the best of our Admirals ; and if it had not been for their concern to carry off the *Soleil*, and the mis-calculating the Tide at the *Race of Alderney*, they had got to their remotest Harbors, to have been sooner refitted for a Second Service, than ours could have been ; and its to be feared that after Ages may repeat the Funeral Pile at *La Hogue*, which hath put a thought into the *French King's Head*, to make a Basin and Port there for his Fleet, and secure that by a Mole and Forts ; which will be such a Thorn in our sides, to all future Ages, that we may curse the Day we roused such an angry Lyon : But whatever the success was in the firing the Ships, our Conduct is not much to be commended ; for that we lost much more, by not knowing an *Un Victoria*, than we got in the Battle : Who ought to Answer the neglect of a Tide, or two, in the pursuit of them, before they were forced to run themselves a-ground ? Sir John Abby's Apology gives little satisfaction, for the want of Pilots was the Admiral's fault : And if *Allemonde* slowly pursued, or tuck'd about, it demonstrates that the *Dutch* are not so cordial in our Interest as we were made believe : Or what excuse can be made, after the firing of the Ships, for the not attacking those had escaped to *St. Malo's*, while under such a consternation ? But if the Glory of having had such an eventual, and unexpected success, must atone for that omission ; yet surely nothing can justify the neglect

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of pursuing the design of the Descent, the Preparation for which had cost so vast Sums of Money; and the failing thereof has so much disappointed the Duke of Savoy, by which the State not only of our Affairs, but also of the whole Confederacy were infinitely more endamaged, than the advantage we got by making the Bonfires at Cherburg and la Hogue.

But it seems no further Enquiry must be made into the Miscarriage of the Descent. The Belly of the Trojan Horse must not be searched, lest Versailles take the Alarum, and Troy be not taken the next Year by the same Stratagem. However, though the Kingdom must have no Account of this; yet I doubt whether the Items of the Expence will be forgot, and how far the Country will be satisfied, without the why or wherefore, those may consider whom it concerns. I fear the chargeable Arrears of it, and to the Navy, Army, &c. though at present untouched by any motion in the House, will have an Audit one time or other when the present Demands are satisfied.

The 2d Trophy, or Pageant rather, is a Pyramid of Gratitude to Almighty God for the Protection of his Majesties Person from the many and great Dangers of the War, in his late Expedition beyond Sea. In my Judgment this is too concisely express'd, it will not hook in the Deliverances of the preceding years, some more particular hints had been necessary, the Canon-Ball (or Pebble rather) should not have been forgot which graz'd or kiss'd the King's shoulder at the Boyne, nor the more miraculous escape from the Battery of the Canon that Luxembourg had caused be pointed at the Oak near Beaumont, where the first Eslay-Shot gave a Providential Warning to remove at greater distance. Nor the so much-talk'd-of escape from the Earthquake which made such a headlong tumbling out of doors of the King, and his Camp-Court. Or his good Genius's appearing to the Centinel, to admonish him of an Assassination, who by a wondrous Confirmation was found shot dead in the belly, a day or two after. These escapes of the danger by Fire and Water, Sea and Land, ought to have been more explicitly recounted, to have afforded great helps to the Country-Persons to have made their Auditories gape.

The Majesty for whose Preservation this Thanksgiving is rigged, hath indeed been a Spectator of very hot Service this Campaign, witness his peeping through his Perspective Glas on the terrible Exploits at Namur, and the Courage of our Men at Steinkirk; yet one of his Officers had more Ingenuity than the Penner of this Proclamation, who wrote

wrote to his Friend, That he had been in no danger in any Engagement this Year, for that he kept constantly near the King's Person.

If we are obliged to return such *Heccatombs* of Praises for Success and Preservation, what ought the French King to do ? If such lank Successes must so inflame our Hearts with Joy, and fill our Mouths with Praises, what loud sounding Musick must echo out the Praises of the ever-victorious *Lewis* for the taking of *Namur*, one of the strongest Forts in Europe, in the Face of 100000 of his Enemies headed by the King. For when we celebrate this Thanksgiving, and the Duke of *Bavaria* who had led the Troops of the Empire against the *Turks* with so great Success, and was to shew the utmost effort of his Valour on the Commencement of his New Government ; the destruction of the Flower of the *British* and other Confederate Forces near *Engbein*, and the defeat of the Germans in *Pays le Lunenburgh* by *Harcourt*, and at *Spire* and *Sphorizeim* by Marshal *de Lorge*, and raising the Siege of *Eberenbourg* ; together with the taking Prisoner the Duke-Administrator of *Wirstemburg*, to which we may add the repulse given to the courageous Duke of *Savoy*, who covered the Mountains, and descended with 30000 Men into *Dauphiny*, as *Xerxes* did of old the *Hellespont* with his Ships ; and the latter was carried back in his *Chair*, as the former had been in a Skiff. And as to the French King's Preservation, hath he not escap'd the dreadful descending Cloud, which so many Months hung over all his Kingdom, big with prodigious Thunder.

*Aut Athos, aut Rhodopen, aut alia Ceramia telo
Deicere.*

And yet we have seen the bolt fall only on *Dixmuid* and *Furnes*, where we have fenced in Church-yards to bury our brave Men in that Grave of Strangers (as it is called) who escap'd at *Engbein*.

It seems we are better natur'd than the French ; we are exorbitantly thankful for small Matters, and for such as they are, we have the Confidence (to give it no harsher Epithet) to ascribe all to the Pleasure of Almighty God, in answer to the Prayers humbly and devoutly offered up to him. It would make a Sceptick, who measured only things by the inequality of Success, to think that the infinite Goodness afforded a more inclinable Ear to the 40 hours Prayers of France than our 7 or 8 solemn Fasting-days.

But we are very short-sighted, if we think all the Pomp of Thanksgiving is to make Retribution to God, who will not be mocked ; no, it is a divine begging Rapture to get more Money ; which together with the conveening the Parliament on the Birth-day of our *Cesar* and

and a City-Feast were contrived by our Politicians, as the surest way to work upon the affection of the People more liberally to give.

On the 3d Trophy hangs the Carcass of *Grandval*, with this Inscription to disappoint, and defeat the barbarous and horrid Conspiracy for taking away his sacred Life by Assassination.

Other Conquerors have shewed their Captives chained before their Triumphal Chariots ; or crowned some with oaken Garlands, for preserving their Fellow-Citizens ; but here we must be content with the shew of one pitiful Victim. It will be worth the while therefore, something more attentively to view this Prodigious Piece : The History of this *Chevaliers Attemp*, was printed here upon a Sunday, and now is trump'd up upon a Thanksgiving, and the Trial it self was timed to divert our melancholy Thoughts after the defeat at *Steinkirk*. Therefore a Matter fitted for so many uses, one would think should be exquisitely true, and leave no room for any scruple of the Certainty of it ; but the more attentively the Account is perused, the more unsatisfied every thinking Man will be of the Consistency of it. I shall touch only some few particulars, which if the Romance had not been endeavoured to be made authentick, by consecrating it in a Thanksgiving, I had let pass as a Military Stratagem ; but when it hath such an Impress, it is fit to be examined whither it will bide the Test.

First, I cannot but note what is said, p. 3. That several Projects were drawn up, several Petitions delivered, and many Conferences were had, and at last the Resolution was taken to bring the Design to effect the first Campaign.

In the name of Sense, what is the meaning of Petitions here ? Did the Suitors for the Employment crowd so thick that there was need of petitioning for Preferment ? Was this the way to keep a Matter of such Importance a Secret ? If there were so many Candidates, what need was there of promising *Grandval* a Dukedom, p. 4, or *du Mont* a yearly Revenue of 20000 Livres, and a Knighthip of St. Lazarus ? p. 6.

In the next place, I cannot but observe the confused penning of a Trial of this Nature, I know not what Country's Custom it follows, I'm sure our Common Sessions-Papers are more methodical. The Witnesses were not so many, but that every ones distinct Tale might have been told ; and not (after a little inconsiderable Stuff reported, under the Heads of their Examination) all jumbled in the Sentence, that we might not know which part was Evidence, which InfERENCE, or which Confession ; and yet the Court-Martial, consisting of such General-Officers

cers, whereof 6 Foreigners, 3 English, and 2 Judges-Advocate with mature deliberation examined, and considered the whole Matter, p. 7.

The next thing of Remark, is, That it was not *Grandval*, who was designed to be the *Assassine*, he was only to clap the Bull-dog *du Mont* on the back, spirin his mouth, and set him on; but he fairly slipp'd his neck out of the Collar, and the *Sieur* hang'd for it.

But if you ask when was the horrid Conspiracy concerted betwixt *Grandval* and *du Mont*, you'll be in a Labyrinth: The Design at the first Campaign is intelligible; but our Knight appears very stupid not to discover that *du Mont* was tricking him then; for the Prints saith, *That they left Paris the 2d of September, 1691. and went Post to Menin*; and *Grandval obtained a Pass for du Mont to go to Ghent, promising the Knight, according to Agreement, that he would send to him at the grand Gارد*. *Grandval went to Luxemburgh's Camp in expectation to bear from him*, p. 6. But the next thing we find, is, that the Squire is got to Hanover. 'Tis true the Sentence saith they kept Correspondence there by Letters. But after *du Mont* had given him this slip, surely *Grandval* deserved the Fool's cap for trusting him any more.

These two never meeting again, as is clear by the Papers, how must we conceive the 2d Plot was concerted betwixt them, when the first was so absolutely defeated by *du Mont*'s withdrawing, and the King's leaving the Field a day or two before the Battle of *Leuze*? Oh! *Grandval* tells *Liefdale*, that *du Mont*, by many repeated Oaths, had sworn he would do it, p. 6. Sure it was by monstrous speaking Trumpets that they could be heard from *Hanover* to *Paris*. *Grandval* indeed expresses some Suspicion, when he tells *Liefdale*, If he were not present he feared *du Mont* would not obey Orders, and so invites him to go along with him; and there seems to be a Witness in the Sentence, which is not taken notice of in the Examination; that is, *du Mont*'s Wife, who might send her Affidavit in Post-Letters, *That she delivered Barbesieux several Letters, that she had received from her Husband, when he was at Hanover*; and we cannot expect a Secretary of State would impart to her the Contents.

But that we may not be wholly in the dark, the next Lines tell us, p. 7. *That the Knight engaged du Mont especially, by those Letters, dated the 20th and 25th of April, and 12th of May last, to come from Hanover, and rendezvous at Uden, in order to take a final resolution with the Knight and Liefdale, concerning the manner of executing the design*: So that it appears it was then yet to form: But what can be the reason we have no Copies of the least Paragraph of those Letters, from which the World might have been better satisfied, than from all the Narrative besides, if they

they had not contained some other Secret not fit to be revealed ? Well, though *du Mont*, who was to execute all, knew nothing of the contrivance ; yet *Grandval*, *Chanlais*, and *Liefdale* were agreed in what manner the *Affassination* should be committed on the Person of his Majesty. *Grandval*, therefore, and *Liefdale* go from Paris the 17th of April 92. and in a few days arrive at Mons, where having waited some while for *Monsieur Chanlais's* arrival, and finding he did not come, they went toward the *Rendezvous*, and that at the *Mayory of Boisledue*, *Grandval* was seized, according to the contrivance of *du Mont* and *Liefdale*, p. 4. who had much about one time discovered the Plot, the First to the Duke of *Hanover*, the Second to his Friends in *Holland*, both to be communicated to the King.

I have before spoke of the confuseness of the Account of the Examinations of *Liefdale* and *d'Amour*, who seemed to have been examined at the Trial ; but when *du Mont's* Testimony is recited, the expression varies thus : *Du Mout being examined since owned the Fact in all its circumstances.* What this since should mean is past my Understanding, unless it be since the Trial, Judgment, or Execution of *Grandval*, at *Hanover* or the Camp ; and if any of these be the meaning of since, considering that *du Mont* was the principal and only convincing Evidence who could be produced, it is neither better nor worse than hanging a Man, and trying him afterwards, if the Paper may be credited.

But I pass to the manner how this design was to have been executed, there is a relation of the Project framed at two distinct times, and concerted by no less Persons than *Monsieur Louvois*, the Marques de *Barbesieux* his Son, and *Monsieur Chanlais*, and others of the French King's Officers and Ministers ; therefore its to be presumed to have been contrived with Skill and Judgment, worthy the Resolves of Persons of their Employments in manegery of Affairs ; but I am sure, as the account relates it, a Club of Men in *Bedlam* would have contrived a Project less ridiculous ; it was thus ; When the King should ride along the Lines, or shoud go out to take any View *du Mont* should lie in Ambuscade ; and when his Majesty should pass within 100 paces, that is an 143 yards, he should fire upon him ; and *Luxemburg* should furnish *Chanlais* with 3000 Horse, (as at the first Project, *Parker* and *Grandval* with 1500,) to bring *du Mont* off with safety, when the Work was done.

It must be a Gun of extraordinary contrivance, scarce to be carried without great suspition, which could do execution at that distance ; especially, when the Print saith, p. 6. That *Monsieur Barbesieux* gave *du Mont* notice, that the Prince of Orange wore a Coat of Mail ; and it would be a very difficult matter, in many Months, to find an opportunity, and a covert at the same time, fit for the enterprize ; and *du Mont* must have

have been a Man very free from the agitations of Mind, which generally must be supposed to attend such an undertaking, that would afford him such a steadiness of hand, to hit a Mark at such a distance.

But suppose the Man and the Gun were capable to perform the Design, it was forgot to be considered, that a Prince and General, residing with his Army, never passeth without his Guards and a Troop of his Principal Officers about him, who would have been so many Screens to receive the fatal Bullets; and there must have been some scores of Attempts, e'er a Season could be found, when the Prince should fortune to be single, before or behind the Train, or R^out of his Attendants.

How villainous soever a Man may design, yet it is to be presumed he would be desirous enough to escape; both to save his Life and obtain his Reward: Let us see what Provision was made for that: The Account says, *That Chanlais being informed of the time, was to have rescued him;* but there must have been the drawing out of that Horse upon so many false Alarms, that it had been impossible, but upon some of them to have discovered the Conspiracy: The Narrative saith, *That Liefdale proposed this Scruple to Grandval,* who replied, *That du Mont had a Secret to Charm Peoples Eyes:* A grave, solid, and satisfactory reply no doubt; as probable as any of the rest of the Contrivance. We are now no more to question the Story of Gyges's Ring, Charms or Gamares, nor *Don Quixot's* encountering the Windmill, or his mistaking the Wine in the Barotho's or Hogskins, for the Blood of the slain Enemies. *Grandval* was more credulous than the old *Don*: If this were not sufficient to have convinced *Liefdale* that *Grandval* was craz'd, it should have been more than sufficient for his Judges to have condemned him rather to the Mad-house, than to the Gibbet. If he had that blinding Faculty, there had been no need of lying in Ambush, or taking his level at great distance; but it seems as soon as the horrid Act was over, his Familiar was to have left him; for the Paper says, *that when every Body was pursuing after du Mont, Grandval and Liefdale should have time to escape, and save themselves, and carry the account to Chanlais.*

But whatever Absurdities attend the Narrative part, the Grand Plot must go on; so notwithstanding the ridiculousness of putting a screw'd Gun and Silver Bullets into the Hands of *Pickering* to kill King Charles the II. Though he had never fired a Piece before, nor the Monstrousness of the Fiction of the 40000 Pilgrims, of the Black Bills, nor several other Incoherencies and Impossibilities of the relation which ought to have damp'd the Credibility at first of the *Popish Plot*; yet we know how much Blood was shed before the bottom of it was detected: So it seems our Plot-wrights now, have not been so solicitous to convince

vince the understanding part of the World of the Truth and Consistency of Matter of Fact, as that the Inferences from it might obtain Belief, which were to bring an *Odium* on the French King and King James; upon which account it is, that Monsieur Louvois, Chaunlaix, Paparell, and Madam Mantenon are brought upon the Stage; and Grandval is said to declare to Liefdale, *That the Design taking place, the Alliance among the Confederate Princes would be broken; that the Princes concerned would each of them recall their Troops, and the Country being thereby left without Soldiers, the King of France would easily make himself Master of it, and King James would be restored again.* But without this the French King has this year made a sufficient Progres to cut the Gordian Knot by a more effectual Method with his Sword. And indeed the very Narrative absolves him for having entertained any Thoughts of effecting his Designs by such black Arts; when he tells us that Monsieur Barbesieux would not himself speak with du Mont, fearing he might be taken Prisoner; and if he should happen then to name him, it might make a great breach in his Fortune, p. 7. which manifestly shews that the King of France was not to be made privy to it; and it appears how little Credit is to be given to the Narrative it self, when within four lines its said, that Barbesieux, Paparell, Parker, and du Mont agreed upon the manner of executing the Design.

And as the French King was not acquainted with the Conspiracy, so it appears that the Duke of Luxembourg his General was not to be wrought upon to countenance such Designs, though the Account will have it, that he was to furnish 3000 Horse to bring off du Mont: for it is well known to Persons of Credit and Honour, that when a resolute Gentleman of more Courage, than Christianity, offered the Duke that he would kill the Prince of Orange, even at the Head of his Guards; Luxembourg answered, *No, no, though he be not a fair Enemy to you, yet he is so to us, and shall ever be treated as such by us.*

Having thus vindicated the French King, 'tis but reasonable I should offer what Informations I have, how wretchedly King JAMES and the Queen are scandalized, by the Account which saith, *That Grandval with the said Liefdale, and Colonel Parker went to St. Germains on the 16th of April, New Stile, 1692. to speak with the late King James about the said Design, and to take leave of him before they began their Journey; that the Prisoner Grandval had Audience at the same time of the said King James, the late Queen being present.* King James telling him, Parker has given me an Account of the Busines: *If you and the other Officers do me this Service, you shall never want; and Parker, the Prisoner, and Liefdale entered into a discourse about this Design.*

None need now doubt of the Cause, why this Paragraph is so specially set down, though in the whole it be an egregious Lie, as I shall here make manifest from the Testimouies of Persons of as great Probity and Veracity not only as the Witnesses, but even as the Judges in the Grand Court Martial.

For clearing the Truth I must step a little backward. The printed Account saith, p. 6. that the contrivance of the first years Design, was that the Prisoner and *Parker* should meet at the Grand Guard of the Duke of Luxembourg's Army, where they were to have 1300 Horse, with whom they were to rescue *du Mont* and bring him off, he giving timely notice of the intended Execution, and that he and *Parker* continued at the Head of the Grand Guard, till the day before the Ren-conntre at *Lenze*, and that he, the Prisoner, and *du Mont*, left *Paris* the 11th of September, 1691.

Surely the Compilers of the Sentence were extremely ignorant of the French Discipline to conceive that such a Post of Honour as the Command of 1500 Horse, for some days together, should be given to Colonel *Parker*, who had no sort of Command in the Army, but was only a Voluntier. But this it may be is put in to please the ignorant Mob of *England*, with whom it was to pass. However it is remarkable that there should be but two fixed times set in the whole Narrative, when Matters of Fact are specified, and in both these there should be such positive Falshoods: for it is notoriously known that the Defeat which Monsieur *Luxembourg* gave the Confederate Army at *Lenze*, was upon the 16th of September, 1691. And it can be proved by most undeniable Testimony, that Colonel *Parker* falling sick in the Army, departed from it to *Mons* upon the 2d of September, and stayed ther, there till after the Battle of *Lenze*. And as the Devil owes Liars at one time or other a shame; so we shall make it appear in what I shall relate further of *Parker* below, that the Witnesses were out in the time stated in the Sentence for the other Action wherein the Colonel was made by them concerned.

To proceed therefore; some of the Colonels Friends finding his Honour and Reputation much concerned, having sent him the printed Account, he returned the following Answer, the Original whereof seen by several Persons of undeniable Credit is copied as followeth.

I find.

I find my Name used as an Introduction to some Reflections on the King and Queen. The present Government by a continual Traffick of Lies, hath much out-done their Brother Oliver, and his Crew. Such detestable Practices may deserve reproach sooner or later; and, as a true Englishman, I heartily wish that the Nation may no longer be blinded by such Shams: They charge me to have presented the said Grandval, to kill the King and Queen's Hand, &c. on the 16th of April, New Style. I have Proof undeniable, I left St. Germains the 10th of April, and was taken at Dunchurch, carried to Rumney on the 21st, as the Mayor of Rumney, and his Fellow-Justices cannot deny; on the 23d I arrived at London, which I can sufficiently prove. How probable is it therefore that I should be sent to England, if engaged in that Affair? Therefore if it would be of any avail, I would adventure into England to vouch the Truth with my Blood being rather willing to be hanged, than that my Master and Mistress should be thus blasphemed. In another Letter he positively avows, that he never was with Grandval at St. Germains; and he most assuredly believes, the King and Queen had no Conference with him.

It is known to Persons of Honour, that he is willing to give a Challenge to Combate any Person, who shall dare to vindicate the particulars charged on the King and Queen, and himself, in the printed account of the Trial,

Thus far as to Colonel Parker.

As to the King and Queen's detesting such Practices, I shall here insert two Accounts from Persons of Honour, and unquestionable Fidelity, who were Ear-Witnesses, with others, of the Expressions, and are ready by their Solemn Oath to attest the same: The first is thus: Being at St. Germains en Laye, about the year 1689, and having received Letters from England, which I thought not improper to shew the Queen, there was this passage in one of them: The Nation is grown so corrupt, that nothing is esteemed but Money; the very Men who set up the Prince of Orange, may be hired to cut his Throat. Upon reading of which words, Her Majesty asked me, if I knew of any design to Murder the Prince of Orange; and upon my assuring Her Majesty I did not, Her Majesty however said, I charge you as you shall Answer at the Day of Judgment, that if you now do, or hereafter shall know of any design upon the Life of the Prince of Orange, you use the utmost of your endeavour to prevent it: Let him be never so wicked to me, I will leave that to God and his own Conscience. I would not consent to his Murder to gain the Empire.

Empire of the World ; nor do I believe the King will ever pardon any that shall attempt any such Wicked Thing.

Another Person also, of Worth and Honour, assured me, that upon an occasional Discourse, which happened before the King and Queen at St. Germains last year, viz. 1691. In which some Persons offered to maintain the Lawfulness of taking off such an Usurper, they both were so far from encouraging such a Discourse, that they maintained with so much vigour as shewed the sincerity of their Hearts, that such Practices against the Life of any Man were unjust ; and that no Man could be a good Christian, that so much as wished them Evil in that kind.

I believe there are no Persons living, who have heard such Christian Expressions fall from the Son or Daughters of so injured a King : No, they are so far from it, that they have not shewed the civility of good breeding towards those Crowned Heads ; otherwise they would not have suffered the publick defaming of them in the broad Day, by Ballads and Pasquils ; or in the Nights of their Illuminations much less have connannced and retained in their Service, such as pulled down and broke in pieces the Statues of King James at Newcastle and Gloucester.

Whatever Objection we may have to the King and Queens being of the Roman Communion, I am sure we can have none to that old Roman Vertue, which is so conspicuous in them : When the Romans had informed Pyrrhus to beware of Poyson from one of his own Subjects who had offered to dispatch him, he did then begin to fear, saith a Learned Author, that he should be conquered by their Arms, who had already subdued him by their civilities.

May the Son-in-Law and Daughters, and the whole Kingdom consider, whether Princes of such Christian tempers, and so mercifully inclined ought to be abdicated, in whose Royal Breasts, Clemency, Mercy, and Goodness, are so firmly-rooted, that the extreamest of Injuries cannot either Eclipse or damp them.

But to finish what I have to say of Grandval, the Paper expresseth it, ‘ That all he said at the place of Execution, was to recommend himself to the Prayers of those who were present : But very credible Persons have writ from Flanders, that he denied the matter of the Conspiracy : and the outmost can be gathered from the Letter, and the Conference, with a Gentleman before his Condemnation, accounts to no more, but that he might have been a Spy, but no Assassin. It is said in the Sentence, That he confessed all without Torture. Or suppose we yield him be a Spy ; by what I have related before, he either appears a Man of no great fence, or it was all trick put upon him by Liefdate and du Mont.’

Now

Now suppose, as it may easily obtain credit, that those who had on purpose brought him into this snare, might have promised him his Life, if he would confirm their Testimony by his Confession: It is no such hard matter to find a Spye a Coward also; and for saving his Life to say any thing. If therefore there had been any good Foundation for the whole, it had been more advantageous to have pardoned him and kept him as a Living Testimony of the wretched disposition of all the great Personages brought in here as concerned in it. But since his Mouth was so soon stopt by the Halter, it doth much resemble the Relation of a Conspiracy against Count Maurice Son of the Prince of Orange, who much augmented the Dutch Greatnes, by one Michel Renichen, and Peter Furius, who confessed the matter, as Grotius saith, lib. 3. and accused the Arckduke Ernestus, then Governoour of Flanders, the Earl of Barlemon, and the greatest Persons in the Spanish Government, to have hired them to Murder the Prince. But when the Archduke, by his Ambassadors, offered that upon safe Conduct, the Earl of Barlemon would appear, and refute, and easily disprove the whole as a Forgery, the States would not hear of it, but executed them, least they should have reveled the Mystery.

Therefore for as many Reasons (no more fit to be made publick, than Grandval had to conceal in whose hands Barbesieux's Note was) it was fit, yea most necessary, to sentence him for a horrid Conspiracy against the Life of King William, and for as weighty Reasons, that it should now aggrandize our Thanksgiving.

The last Trophee represents the Concource of People, the Acclamations, Illuminations, and other Symbols of Joy, for the King's being brought back in Safety to this Kingdom. He hath indeed little reason to complain of any neglect, or the People's want of respect to him in that particular, a little Matter influences the Mob upon such Occasions, I have seen more done to the late Protector; and if I be not wrong inform'd, we infinitely out-doe the Dutch in trimming surh Solemnities: In whose Territories he may pass with his Fiocca's, yet a Tradesman will scarce stir out of his Shop to welcome him with an Huzza: But what Joy forever the people may have in the King's return in Safety, it must be easily conceived that his was vastly greater when he landed at this Goshen, having been put into so greet an Affright by a few French Privateers, so that he ordered the Royal Standard to be struck lest it might be known on what Vessel he was aboard: And there are some in the World who can tell upon his first Invasion, what

sort of Courage he shewed, when one Morning, his Squadron being separated from the rest of the Fleet, he took those at a distance to be the English, and fired a Gun to bring all the Captains of that Squadron aboard him for advice, and struck his Flag; though it was impossible King James's Fleet could have been in that Station, as the Wind then blew; so that it may be doubted whether his Courage or his Skill in Navigation at that time were most to be commended: So that a considerable Officer, when the Squadrons came near, observing the Flag down in the Prince's Vessel, said within himself, as he hath since told; *I know by this who has been affrighted.*

But he then, as now, got safe a-shore; and we cannot but think he was brim full of Joy to arrive at a place, which bath gilded all his Laurels, and given him a Crown with a Revenue, and Infinite Hands to support it.

Here it is to be freshly supplied with all things which make him great and formidable abroad; but the poor Country-man, for all his seeming mirth, inwardly groans as our Noblemen and Gentlemen's Tenants do, that their Landlords spend not their Rent at home, but in this great City? Had he brought his Fleet home laden with Spoils, and Prizes from our Enemies? Had our Merchants, since we were Masters of the Sea, obtained the full Scope of their Traffick? Had our Military Men returned with the Ensigns of Victory, and the Plunder of ransack'd Towns and Camps, then we could not enough have celebrated our Ovations, even by the highest excess and transport, but to be always on the spending and exporting hand? And for our thousand Chests of Silver, our infinite Arms, Ammunition, Men, and Provisions, to have nothing brought but empty Casks, and starved and ragged Remains of our Troops, with a *Qualis reddit* writ on each Head. This, This must damp the Huzzas of such as are sensible, and cause all our merry and lofty ringings end in a doleful Toll of a Passing-Bell.

SIR, I am desirous to give you an exact account of what

I designed here to have concluded; but having met with the Thanksgiving Sermon, preached by the Arch-Presbyter of Lambeth, I could not refrain from bestowing some Reflections upon it.

He saith, *The great and glorious Occasion of the Day, was for a most glorious Victory at Sea, the greatest and cheapest that ever the Sun saw since his first setting out to run his course.* Boldly offerred by our Johannes de

de Tempore. Who but he can tell what Wonders the Sun hath seen? We shall find him below as confident an Expositor of the Revelations.

Some people may be such Admirers of his Person and High Place, as to take all for Gospel which he pronounceth. But if he publish nothing truer than he did in this Sermon, the knowing part of Mankind must judge his Talent to lie more in Sycophantism and Time-serving, than in Divinity and History, enough to show him an Animal *sine preferendo & futuro*; otherwise he would neither thus have imposed upon his Auditory and the Nation, or have so schismatically assumed the Chair at *Lamberh*.

Was the Sea-fight at *Lepanto*, about 121 years since, more inconsiderable than this? Or is it to be presumed, the Great Eye of the World was not so sharp-fighted then? I refer the candid Reader to Mr. Knoll's *Turkish History*, An. 1571. wherein he may at large peruse the terrible Fight betwixt *Don John of Austria*, and *Holy Bassa*, where nothing that Manhood, Courage, and Strength of Arms could do, was wanting on either side: The Admirals were engaged three hours, the Battle lasted five; not only each Squadron, but each Gally fought with incomparable Valour and obstinacy, boarding and repulsing one another several times: The Christians had six Galeasses, 203 Gallies and Galliots; the *Turks* 250 Gallies, 50 Galliots, and 20 Brigantines. The Turkish Admiral was slain, and besides several Persons of very great Quality mentioned, there were 3200 Inferior Officers, and common Soldiers, and Seamen slain, and 160 of these Gallies were taken, and 81 of their Gallies and Galliots burnt and sunk in downright Fight, and 3500 Prisoners taken, among which the Admiral two Sons.

It is to be supposed our Preacher was not ignorant of this, and knew that many other might be instanced, much more remarkable for the loss of Men and Ships than this of the French. But this happy occasion of *Praise and Thanksgiving* is the greatest that England hath had, and in the true Consequences of it, perhaps the greatest that ever Europe had: What! was not the Deliverance from the invincible *Armado*, Anno 1588. to England, and perhaps to Europe too, as considerable, as the case then stood, when the Power of Spain was as much feared and envied, as that of France is now?

Well, but if the Victory shold not prove so great as others have been at Sea, yet it was cheaper: It was wisely done to couple Epithets as they do Rabbits, a fat and a lean: But pray what cheap things are

are valuable by Men of Arms; neither was it so cheap to us, for during the Fight we lost as many if not more Men, and had as much damage in the disabling our Ships. The Accidents are well-known, I have touched them before, which rendred the defeat so cheap. The Whale, the very Leviathan of the Sea, when once run on ground costs not much pains nor requires much art to be destroyed; and the Bird whose Wing is broke is a cheap prey even to the Fowlers Spaniel. I know our Gazette made it a bolder and braver Adventure to burn the French Ships, than any thing done in the Fight. At Cherburg it might cost us a Fire-ship and some Flambeaus. But if there be not damnable Lies told by Eye-Witnesses, at La Hogue, the French took out all the Cannon, and what was of value, in the two or three days interval they had, and set Fire on the Ships themselves.

But when all is done, whoever reads the Expedition, Anno 1596, under Robert Earl of Essex, and the Lord Charles Howard, Admiral, to Cadiz, will find incomparable more Valour and Exploits done upon the Spaniards, in that Port, against all the vigorous defence they could make, than any we had to boast on here, as in the short account which Camden gives, lib. 4. may be read; the summe of which is, ' That the English put to flight and vanquished a most compleatly provided Fleet of that King, brought home above 100 pieces of Canon, and two of the great Galleons, and vast Spoil; so that the Seamen and Soldiers returned full of Pillage, flush'd with Money and Courage for another expedition; and the Spaniard lost thirteen of his best Men of War for Service, forty Indian Merchant-Ships, and three other, and vast quantities of Provision for Land and Sea, and the opportunity of sending any Merchandize that year for America,

But notwithstanding all this, and several Instances more I might produce; yet who dare question the Authority of our Divine John, that the Victory at Sea is greater than any the Sun hath seen, when by the help of St. Asaph, he hath found it predicted in the Revelations, 18. 17. I have sometimes heretofore, saith he, wondred why at the destruction of Modern and Mystical Babylon, the Scripture should make so express mention of great wailling and lamentation for the loss of her Ships and Seamen, little imagining 30 years since that any of the Kingdoms, who had given their Power to the Beast, would have ever arrived to that mighty Naval Force: But the Scripture saith nothing in vain.

No, I believe 30 years since, the Doctor would have said with Hazaell, is thy Servant a Dog, to him that should have told him, that he could have usurped the Archiepiscopal Throne: And before one year more

more be added to his days, he may Recant his Comment on the *Revelations*, and find the Scripture saith nothing in vain, when Psal. 12. 3. it declares that the Lord shall cut off all flattering Lips, and the Tongue that speaketh proud things: And Psal. 83. 12 and 13. Who said let us take to our selves the Houses of God in possession: O my God make them like a Wheel, and as stubble before the Wind. Let him also reflect upon what King Soloman said to the High Priest, who had been in the Conspiracy with Adonijah, if not in Absalom's also, Kings 1, 2. v. 26. And unto Abiathar the Priest, said the King, get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own Fields, for thou art worthy of Death.

But to proceed, Some may think it strange, why the Preacher beflaws such a Panegyrick on the French King in a Page or more, representing him every way so formidable: But it is only to let us know, that the Knight must slay the Gyant: For in Page 33. he tells us, *Thus have I represented to you a mighty Monarch, &c. Let us now turn our view to the other part of the Text, And behold a greater than he is here.*

I have heard and read many Sermons in my time; but do not remember that when any Preacher made use of an Expression, which in the Scriptures had been spoke of our Blessed Saviour, and by them applyed to any Man or thing, but they always added, *with Reverence be it spoken;* but our John a Cane is above these Rudiments.

It will not be amiss, however, a little to consider, wherein the Prince is greater than the French King. I suppose it is not in Stature, Majestick Mien, or any bodily perfection he is more accomplished, neither can any Parallel be made as to their Extraction. The Houses of Nassau or Orange can boast of no such Succession of Crowned Heads, as the Houses of Valois and Bourbon can do; nor is it from the large extent of either of their Dominions, that any Comparison can be made. The one however is an Hereditary Possessor of a vast Monarchy, the other a precarious Illurper of his Father-in-La'ws Dominions, and if King James and the Prince of Wales were dead without Issue, the Prince of Orange could have no better Tenour than that of the Apron string.

What is it then which inspires our Preacher to blow up the Frog to equal the Ox, since none of these, nor Riches, Conquests, or Armies will do it. O no these are all sublunary perishable, things. Nor can it be, for all the Dean's Divinity, because his Prince *understands that God is the Lord, which doth exercise Loving-kindness, Judgment and Righteousness in the Earth.* For all Men may easily swear that the French King doth as stedfastly believe this, as either the Prince of Orange, or his Chaplain doth.

What is it then wherein our Hero so far excells the Grand Lewis? At last we are ascertained of it: *Casbedre*. The Prince hath made it the great study and endeavour of his Life to invite these Divine Perfections, (Loving-kindness, Judgment, and Righteousness, I suppose he means,) as far as the Imperfections of Humane Nature in this Mortal Life will admit.

Here's an Eulogy with a Witness! Enough to have put a modest Prince to the blush. It might more decently have been reserved for an Apotheosis at his Funeral Solemnities. It is a new Invention, to dub Saints in their Life-time, and be Glorified thus beyond the rate of Mortal Man.

You Saints of the first magnitude, whether of the Old or New Testament, must Abdicate your Crowns when he comes among you. Fool that I was, I thought that the Righteous Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses the meekest of Men, King David, a Man after God's own Heart, the Holy Prophets and Seers, the Pen-Men of Scripture, the Apostles or some of them might have had precedence. But the Divine Oracles give them no such Characters, as our fat false Primate doth his Prince.

It is time therefore to examine how much the King of France falls short of our Hero, even in these Spiritual Perfections. I dare not presume to draw the comparison by Affirmatives, I shall therefore Essay it only in some few Negatives. The King of France never chonced a People by Declarations, promising to preserve their Religion, Rights, Liberties and Properties, and secure them against Slavery and Tyranny; yet never performed one Tittle of the same, as we know who hath done it. The King of France never, by Treachery, invaded his Father-in-Law, and Usurped his Throne; but on the contrary hath by an Heroick Charity, supported and assisted, and will so continue to do, that King, whom the Prince hath so unmercifully and unnaturalily oppressed. I might enlarge on that Head, but every ones experience will furnish him with many more items.

Well, but here's another Oyex. Here are fresh and more palpable Encomiums behind, such as may be felt, heard, and understood by carnal Men, if those spiritual ones be beyond their reach.

And these are ushered in with a *Be bold a Greater than he is here;* which puts me in mind of a Parson I very well knew in the late Civil Wars, who preaching upon the Difficulty to overcome Darling-Sins, was so mightily taken with a Simile he had hit upon, that every Calf's head had a sweet tooth, that for three Sundays successively, in one part or other of his Sermon, he repeated it, and probably might have continued

tinued it longer, if a considerable Parishioner had not unseasonably thanked him for instructing him in some of his late Sermons; in a Particular he was ignorant of before. The Minister, with lifted up Eyes, thanked God for the Gift he had enabled him with, to teach such a knowing Auditor, but whithal desired to know wherein he had enlightened his Understanding; which when the Gentleman told him that he had been heretofore so ignorant, that he did not know that a *Calves-head* had three sweet Teeth, the Divine withdrew, without tasting the Tankard of Ale was called for. I can assure our Doctor, who it seems is as fond of his *Lo here* as the Parson was of his *sweet* Tooth, that they were both the same Country-men.

But let us see, upon his second Onset, wherein consists the Superiority of the two Champions. If we be not so audacious as to gainsay the Gentleman in *Pomicalibus*, it is this, *The Prince never said, or did, an insolent thing.* What! Is this so extraordinary a Qualification? I believe there are many Shrub Christians, who may have as much truly said of them, and yet are not thereupon greater than the French King. But I would gladly know whether the dethroning his Father, and usurping the Crown of a lawful King, and the contumelious Usage of those without whose help he never could have effected it, hath nothing of *Insolent* in it.

But we must consult the Expositor of the Apocolyps to know the genuine meaning of the Word *Insolent*, and it follows in the very next Words. *But instead of despising his Enemies, has, upon all Occasions, encountered them with an undaunted Spirit and Resolution.* Oh, he is a Christian of the Church-Militant, no Milk-sop Christian, to forgive, and pray for his Enemies.

It seems then the true Character of an *Insolent* Man, is to despise his Enemy. God-a-mercy *Don John of Sourely*, a fair Flight. Why, the greatest Coward may arise to this Perfection: He that is in a muck sweat with Fear despiseth not his Enemy. Grant we then that this *Britannick* Majesty despiseth not his Enemy, his Chaplain then surely should learn not to insult as he doth.

Well, if he despise not his Enemy, what doth he then? *Instead of that he has, upon all Occasions, encountered him with undaunted Courage and Resolution.* Prove this, Sir John, and take the Cause: Why do not you instance in the Sieges of *Mous* and *Namur*, when the King his Rival and Enemy was so near him; if he had no man to do it then, I suppose he will not go to *Versailles* to duel him.

However

However to gratifie our Preacher, we'll grant him all this; yet it will not make him greater than the King of France, who hath thousands of Subalterns, yea of his Gen' & Arms, and Common Troopers, who, without doubt, have often, and will constantly again encounter their Enemy with an undaunted Courage and Resolution. So that for all this great Bole, with a bole greater is here, our o'er-topping Champion must take up such a Character, equally competent to an hundred thousand of the French King's Soldiers. And so of the Thanksgiving, and all its Appurtenances, here's an end.

A N D E N D